Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-referenced application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A system comprising:

a cannula having a passage to percutaneously access a site proximate opposed surfaces of a bone joint; and

a retractor including a shaft ~~that has a~~ having inner and outer walls, the inner wall defining a first lumen extending therethrough and an inflatable bladder attached to a distal end of the shaft and extending distally thereof, said retractor being introducible through the cannula passage so that the bladder may be positioned between the opposed surfaces, the inflatable bladder configured to separate the opposed surfaces when expanded, thereby defining a working space therebetween, said inflatable bladder including an opening extending therethrough such that a surgical instrument may traverse the first lumen and the opening thereby entering into the working space, wherein the inflatable bladder is inflated by fluid received through a second lumen defined between the inner and outer walls of the shaft.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder is eccentrically shaped or mounted on the shaft.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder does not substantially stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from about 10 mmHg to about 1000 mmHg.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from about 100 mmHg to about 1000 mmHg.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the shaft is substantially rigid.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the shaft is substantially flexible.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A system as in any of claims 1 or 4-9, further comprising a viewing scope.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, further comprising an interventional instrument.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the opposed surfaces include bone tissue and soft tissue.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein the retractor is movable through the passage such that the inflatable bladder is repositionable with respect to the cannula.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 13, wherein relative movement between the cannula and the expanded inflatable bladder retracts tissue from one of the opposed surfaces.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 1, wherein a portion of the surgical instrument extends distally of the inflatable member, inflation of the inflatable member fixes the portion of the surgical instrument relative to body tissue surrounding the retractor.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A system comprising:

a cannula having a passage; and

a retractor including a shaft having inner and outer walls, the inner wall defining a first lumen extending therethrough and an inflatable bladder attached to a distal end thereof, the inflatable bladder being the distalmost component of the retractor, said retractor being introducible through the cannula passage such that the inflatable bladder may be positioned within tissue and thereby define a working space upon inflation of the inflatable bladder, the inflatable bladder including an opening extending therethrough such that a surgical instrument may traverse the first lumen and the opening thereby entering into the working space, wherein the inflatable bladder is inflated by fluid received through a second lumen defined between the inner and outer walls of the shaft.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 15, wherein the shaft does not extend distally of the inflatable bladder.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): A system as in claim 16, wherein when a potion of the surgical instrument extends distally of the inflatable member, inflation of the inflatable member fixes the portion of the surgical instrument relative to body tissue surrounding the retractor.